

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an ~~electronic~~ Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of an ~~electronic~~ Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication without sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication from a recipient, sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

tracking the sending of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients; and

when the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

when it is determined that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that none of the recipients have indicated that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication is to be saved, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

when it is determined that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that all of the recipients have indicated that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication can be deleted, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including:

determining a period of time for which the ~~electronic~~ Email communication will be stored; and

when the determined period of time has expired, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying of a

recipient of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication involves sending a distinct indicator ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 including retrieving notifying

instructions for a recipient, and wherein the notifying of the recipient is performed according to the notifying instructions.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying

instructions are supplied by a sender of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are

supplied by the recipient.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are determined automatically based on past interactions with the recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions indicate that the notifying is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an ~~electronic~~ Email communication to a plurality of recipients, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication ~~and of including~~
an indication of the plurality of recipients to receive the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

storing a single copy of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

notifying each of the recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication without sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication from a recipient, sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including:

tracking the requests for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication from the recipients;
and

after all of the recipients have requested the ~~electronic~~ Email communication, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the deleting is performed only when none of the recipients desire continuing access to the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including automatically sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to a non-recipient authorized to access the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including retrieving sending instructions for a recipient, and wherein the sending of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication is performed according to the sending instructions.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions are supplied by a sender of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions indicate that the sending is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

Claims 30-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to send an ~~electronic~~ Email communication to recipients by:

receiving an indication of an ~~electronic~~ Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing the ~~electronic~~ Email communication;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication without sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication from a recipient, sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled by:

~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled by:

tracking the sending of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients; and
when the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system is further controlled:

when it is determined that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients, deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for sending an ~~electronic~~ Email communication to recipients, comprising:

a communication distributor for receiving an indication of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication and of at least one recipient to receive the ~~electronic~~ Email communication, for determining whether multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication have been indicated in the received indication, for storing the ~~electronic~~ Email communication and notifying each of the multiple recipients of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication without sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients ~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated, and for sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to a recipient in response to a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication from the recipient.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 41 wherein the communication distributor is further for sending the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to a single

recipient without waiting for a request for the ~~electronic~~ Email communication ~~when~~ if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 42, further comprising:

a communication tracker for tracking the sending of the ~~electronic~~ Email communication to the recipients, and for deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication when the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 43, further comprising:

a communication tracker for deleting the stored ~~electronic~~ Email communication when it is determined that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that that the ~~electronic~~ Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients.